A RELATION

Of the late great

VICTORY,

Obtained by the Forces of the

COMMON-WEALTH of

ENGLAND,

Against the Earl of CLANRICKARD,

near the River *Shannon.* 25th Oct. 1650

(In a letter 4th Novem. 1650.

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A true Relation of the late great VICTORY, *Obtained by the Forces of the Commonwealth of* ENGLAND, *againſt the Earle of* Clanrickard, *near the River* Shannon.

THe ſtate of Affairs here ſince my laſt untoyour Lordſhip, preſents it ſelf thus, Upon the ſixth of *October* laſt, Colonell *Axtell* Gove nour of *Kilkenny*, drew what forces could wel be ſpared out of this place, and other adjacent Garriſons, *viz.* Eight hundred Horſe and Foot, and marched towards the Kings County, both to ſupply and ſettle our Garriſons in thoſe parts, lying upon the *Shannon* ſide, and being Frontiers upon the Enemy, as alſo to put them into a tenable detenvſie Poſture, aſwell to prevent the Enemy from Quartering there, as to ſecure our own

Quarters from their incursions; before he came thither, he had certain intelligence, that upon our Northern Forces drawing themselves from *Athlone*, the Enemy in *Connaught*, taking that advantage, came over the *Shannon*, their number was Three Thousand Foot, and about Three Hundred Horse, all under the Command of *Clanrickard* (whom *Ormond* hath lately made his Deputy) and had besieged *Kilkolgan*, a Garrison of ours, and the night before had taken *Forbawne* Castle, another of our Garrisons, that blockt up a Passe, which is an inlet to *Kilkolgan*; Colonell *Axtell*, with a small Body faced the Passe, and drew back his main Body to attempt another Passe, whether when he came, he found it strongly fortified with breast-works, and mann'd with Horse and Foot, besides there was a deep River (though but narrow) between him and the Enemy, they had an houres dispute, each being drawn up in a full Body, on either side the River: the Enemy lost one hundred and fifty of their Horse and Foot, wee onely one Lievtenant, besides five or six Common Souldiers that were wounded. In respect of the depth of the water, and steepnesse of the banks, ours could not get over, but retreated about half a mile, to invite the enemy, to draw over into a Champion ground, but they declined it: Immediatly upon this, there came an additionall strength to the Enemy, for young *Preston*, with those which marched out of *Waterford* with him and others whom he had raised since, together with fresh Forces out of *Connaught*, conjoyned with the Enemy, so that in all they were in number upward of Four Thousand Foot, and five Hundred Horse: They marched with their

their whole Body over the *Forbawn* River, and came within two miles of *Berr*, a Garrison of ours, where in two great battering Gunnes were lodged, Colonell *Axtell* not thinking it fit to engage so great a Body with so small a Party, retreated into *Ossory*, both to procure a conjunction with more Forces, and a supply of provision. In the *interim* the Enemy summoned *Berr*, and took in three of our Castles neer thereunto, *viz.* *Cary* Castle, *Streamstone* Castle, and *Clogan*. Colonell *Axton* being conjoyned at *Roscrea*, with an additionall strength out of the County of *Tipperary*, and *Wexford*, who for that purpose had notice to Randevous at *Roscrea*, upon the 21 of *October*, in all consisting of thirteen hundred foot and a thousand Horse and Dragoons, advanced towards *Berr*, whereupon the Enemy raised their Camp, and retreated to *Meleerk* Island, bordering upon the *Shannon*, into which there is onely one passe, with boggs on each side, and that also fortified in three severall places, one behind another, as reserves to each other, which were all to be got before any entry could be obtained into the Island. Upon the twenty five of *October*, halfe an hower before night, our forces made an attempt upon the Enemy, and after a small dispute, beat them off from the first and second guard on the passe, but at the third the dispute was so hot, that they come to Butt end of Musquets, and God being pleased to give our forces an entrance into the Island, the whole body of the Enemy was presently totally routed, they lost all their armes, we took two hundred of their Horse, all their Waggons, Oxen, Tents, provisions and whatsoever

soever they had in their whole Camp, among which were *Clanrickards* own Waggon, and tents, he himselt the day before having gone over the *Shannon*, to give Order for the rest of his forces to March towards *Limbrick*, being confident that the Army which he had left in the Kings County, together with those whom hee expected would have gathered to his assistance, would have been able to carry all before them, in these parts. The Number of what men the enemy lost is not certainly known, for besides those who were kil'd, multitudes were drowned, five hundred of them were forced into the *Shannon*, by one party of our Horse in one place, and there were all drowned in one company together. The Irish report that there was not above 300. of the Enemy which escaped, and that most of those were such as swame over the *Shannon*, which agrees with the relation of a Trumpeter who was next day sent by their Major Generall *Taffe*, to enquire after prisoners, who did confesse that all but three hundred were lost; we lost onely one Captain *viz.* Captain *Goff*, with eight common Souldiers, and twenty wounded.

The next day the Enemy quitted all the before-mentioned Garrisons taken from us, firred them, and fled away into *Connaught*, This being done, Colonell *Axtell* the first of *November* instant, with part of the forces, returned to this place, those parts being much infested in his absence, with a party of Horse and foot, consisting of about five hundred under the command of *Dungan*, *Peirce Rea*, and *Cavanagh*, and the same day at midnight with a party of Horsend foot drew out towards *Thomas Towne*,

where

where he heard the Enemyes late mentioned forces were gathered together, about seven miles from this place, the other part of our forces marched unto my Lord Deputie, who hath besieged the Castle of *Nenath*, in Lower *Ormond*, about four miles from the *Shannon*, having drawn off the forces from before *Limbrick*, the unseasonablenesse of the weather not admitting our Army to ly in the field, so long as the gaining of a place of so great strength will require.

At this instant, Newes is come that *Nenagh* Castle is surrendered, and that my Lord Deputy will take up his winter quarters here within a day or two.

Kilkenny,
4 *November*. 1650.

FINIS.

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